

**THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

**MINUTES**

**AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE**

**October 7, 2019**

Chair Ramos called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. in Committee Room 2-145 at Metropolitan Headquarters.

Members present: Chair Ramos, Vice Chair Paskett, Directors Hogan, Kurtz, McKenney and Smith.

Members absent: Directors Ackerman, Ballin, Barbre, Butkiewicz, and Quiñonez.

Other Board Members present: Chairwoman Gray (entered at 4:20 p.m.), Directors Blois, Goldberg, Hall and Treviño.

Staff present: Beatty, Riss, Rodriguez, Salinas, Scully, Tonsick and Von Haam

**1. OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE ON MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S JURISDICTION**

None

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**

Motion: Carried

Moved: Director McKenney                      Seconded: Director Smith

Ayes: Directors Hogan, Kurtz, McKenney, Paskett, Ramos and Smith

Noes: None

Abstentions: None

Absent: Directors Ackerman, Ballin, Butkiewicz, Barbre and Quiñonez

The motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes, 0 noes, 0 abstain, and 5 absent

### **3. MANAGEMENT REPORTS**

- a. Subject: Ethics Officer's report

Presented by: Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

Mr. Salinas reported that he presented to the employees and management staff at the Jensen water treatment plant facility.

- b. Subject: General Auditor's report

Presented by: General Auditor Gerald Riss

Mr. Riss reported that the response to the Emergency Response Planning and Exercise audit had been completed. Mr. Riss also mentioned that KPMG has completed all their work and have no findings. KPMG will be presenting at the next Audit and Ethics Committee in November to review their final report, opinion and required communications.

### **4. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS – ACTION**

None

### **5. OTHER BOARD ITEMS – ACTION**

None

### **6. BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS**

None

## 7. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a. Subject: Review of the policies and procedures of the Ethics Office and Recommended Changes

Presented by: Ethics Officer Abel Salinas

Mr. Salinas presented additional recommendations for proposed amendments to the Administrative Code, including the following topics:

- Oversight and feedback from directors
- Gift limits for employees
- Levels of severity in findings of violations
- Discretion in opening investigations
- Notice to subject of an investigation
- Quarterly reports on pending investigations
- Whistleblower protections
- Public notice for contracts of \$50,000 or more

The following Directors provided comments or asked questions:

1. Ramos
2. Hogan
3. Smith
4. Kurtz
5. McKenney
6. Paskett
7. Goldberg
8. Hall
9. Blois

## 8. FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

None

## 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on November 4, 2019

Marsha Ramos  
Chair